

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 754

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION that we honor and commend Fred Phillips, Commissioner of the Department of Safety, for his forty years of honorable service in law enforcement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those inimitable public servants who during their tenure in office have performed their appointed duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment, and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips is one such distinguished public servant who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is undoubtedly a safer and better place to live due to Commissioner Phillips' honorable and gallant service; and

WHEREAS, this honorable Tennessean has protected and served the good citizens of this State in a wide range of positions; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, he brought his tremendous knowledge of law enforcement to the Department of Safety's Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy as Director; he proceeded to serve as Deputy Commissioner of the Department and Commander of the Tennessee Highway Patrol from January 1993 until the people of Washington County evinced their full faith in his skill and dedication by electing him as their Sheriff in September 1994; and

WHEREAS, as Sheriff, Fred Phillips brought many positive changes to his Department, such as initiating twenty-nine community watch programs and creating a reserve officer training program through which the public could provide deputies with needed support; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the excellence of Fred Phillips, Governor Phil Bredesen appealed to him to join his administration as Commissioner of the Department of Safety; once again, Commissioner Phillips answered his State's call to service humbly and energetically; and

WHEREAS, his service in this position has reinforced his unsurpassed reputation for integrity and dedication that he has earned during his forty years of law enforcement, beginning as a patrolman in the Johnson City Police Department, which he later served as Police Chief before becoming a Special Agent with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Commissioner Phillips has demonstrated remarkable ability as a law enforcement officer and official and has won the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors, such as being named in 1999 as "Sheriff of the Year" by the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, and he selflessly shares his time and talent as a Member of the Board of the National Sheriffs Association and formerly served as President of the Tennessee Sheriffs Association; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Phillips holds an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Walters State Community College in Morristown, and much of the wisdom that has precipitated his great success can be traced to his native Jonesborough and the lessons he learned there; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Verla, and he is the loving father of two children and proud grandfather of four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Phillips is known as an advocate and crusader for good, responsive government and for the concerns of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commissioner, he has been a prominent figure on Capitol Hill; he is a gentleman whose talent and energy have rarely been equaled; and

WHEREAS, it is now highly appropriate that the friends and colleagues of this outstanding public servant should honor him and recognize his numerous accomplishments and contributions to our great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Fred Phillips for his immeasurable service to Tennessee during his forty years of law enforcement and honor him for his distinguished service as Commissioner of Safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.